Action Plan for replacement of Petrol/Diesel Vehicles

969. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action-plan for replacement of petrol vehicles or diesel vehicles with compressed natural gas;

(b) whether the action-plan would also require immediate capital expenditure of a few hundred crores;

(c) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has been entrusted with the job of implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) Gas Authority of India Limited and IBP Co. have prepared an action-plan for the use of compressed natural gas (CNG) as automotive fuel at selected locations. It is being reviewed.

Implementation of Ramdas Committee Report

970. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ramdas Committee about the aircrash of Airbus 320 has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations for avoiding the accidents;

(c) whether the Government have implemented it; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Report are available in Parliament Library vide Index No. 621.13252 M9.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

971. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists who visited Himachal Pradesh during the Tourism Year so far;

(b) whether the Himachal Pradesh Government has submitted any plan about the conducted tours of foreign tourists in the prohibited area of the State;

(c) if so, the response of the Central Government to the plan; and

(d) the special efforts being made to attract foreign tourists in the State?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) According to the statistics available from the State Government, 126,899 tourists including 125,914 domestic tourists visited Himachal Pradesh during first two months of 1991.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has agreed for the relaxation of restrictions on the entry of foreign tourists in certain parts of Himachal Pradesh based on the proposals received from the State Government.

(d) Efforts being taken include continued upgradation of tourism infrastructure and overseas publicity of tourist attractions in the State.

Special plans for tourism year

972. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current year is being observed as 'Tourism Year';